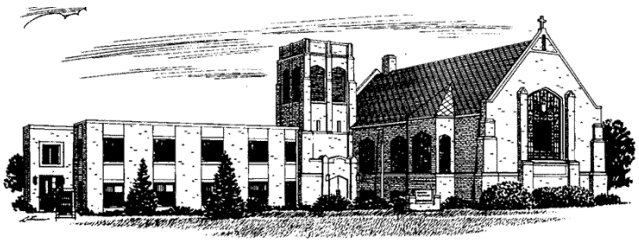


# SARON NEWSLETTER

*Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)*
*510 Main Street*
*St. Joseph, Michigan 49085*

*Website: www.saronlutheran.org*
*Email: info@saronlutheran.org*
*Phone: 269-983-1273*
*Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph*

## February 2019

One is never quite sure what it is about the church on Main that folks see as they walk or drive by. Recently I received a hand written note from someone who thanked us for always putting up the nativity scene in the yard and what it meant to her. This person appreciates it every year and decided to write and tell us.

It makes me wonder – what else do people see? Or what is it they don't see? Our witness on Main Street is important! The word Epiphany (celebrated January 6) means manifestation. The season after Epiphany lasts until Lent begins. It is the time we continue to focus on how/where Christ continues to be made known to the world.

I pray the light we shine on Main Street and beyond is bright in our proclamation of God's love for all.

*Thank you!*
*Please accept our heartfelt thanks for the many expressions of kindness you offered Jim and me over the holidays. We appreciate you all more than you can imagine!*

Pastor Joan

*Fortify and Fly Video*

Many of you were able to see Project Fortify and Fly's video, featuring our choir, youth, and Saron leaders speaking of the ministry and vision of Saron. If you would like to watch the video again, or have a friend watch it, the link can be found at *https://youtu.be/d1UGzGbPXLg* or you can search on "Fortify & Fly" in YouTube.

*The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor*
*Home: 269-983-2475*
*Email:* oleson@saronlutheran.org

*Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,*
*Bell Choir Director*
*Email: roll1mc@gmail.com*
*Irma Gorman, Organist*
*Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant*
*tbd, Financial Secretary*
*Emily Gaul, Child Care*

**Sundays at Saron:**
***During the School Year:***
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

*Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):*
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

*Saron's Mission:*
*Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!*

# *Caring and Sharing*

**In Our Prayers –**

We remember in our thoughts and prayers:
**Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville.

**Serving in the military:**
**Andy Wedde** – **California**

**Office Hours at Saron**
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Financial Secretary: tbd
Call for office for more information
*When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.*
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

## *Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in February*

Feb. 2 - Lindsay Gilmore-Gaspari
3 - Makayla Bradley
5 - Jerry Stelling
Erin Vollmer
6 - Linda Dipert
Mary Alice Brunner
8 - Ernst Knauf
Krystina Walker
9 – Frieda Williams
10 - Aiden Ashley
12 - Jacqueline Nicholas
Virginia Anserello
15 - Robert King
21 - Ryan Talbert
22 - Darlene Kiessel
26 - Wendy King

*For additions or corrections, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.*

***From our Mission Partner***

For the last few years Saron has financially supported Trinity Lutheran Church in Battle Creek, as our mission partner. Here is a recent note from them.

*Dear Pastor Oleson and Members of Saron Lutheran Church:*

*On behalf of the people of Trinity Lutheran Church in Battle Creek I want to express our thanks to you for your generous support for the ministry of Trinity. We are very grateful for this gift and for our partnership in the Gospel.*

*We at Trinity could not do the ministry that we do in the Post neighborhood without the support of generous partners like you. We prepared this brochure* to give you a snapshot of the ministry your gifts are supporting. Thank you for all you helped us accomplish this summer.*

*Yours in Christ,*
*Diane Andert*
*Council President*

**Brochure is posted on kiosk in Saron's narthex*

Celebration Sunday on January 6th wrapped up the campaign portion of Project Fortify & Fly but the awe inspiring success of that vital fundraising piece just means exciting new things will soon be happening at Saron. Read the 4th, and final, special edition Fortify & Fly Newsletter for the latest pledge total and lots of other information. Communication will remain a priority over the next months and years. You need to know what's happening with the various focus areas and how they evolve into specific projects. We committed the money together and we will move forward together!

**TIME TO RENEW "LIVING LUTHERAN" MAGAZINE**

"*Living Lutheran,"* the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, keeps us informed of events and issues impacting Lutherans. Subscribers also have access online to more than 9,000 archived articles and 400 Study guides. Those that have been enjoying *"Living Lutheran"* already or those who would like to begin receiving *"Living Lutheran" can* purchase or renew for the price of $9.00 a year.

Please make out a check to Saron and write "Living Lutheran" in the memo area of your check or place cash in an envelope clearly identified with your name, the amount enclosed and the words *"Living Lutheran."* This can be handed in to the office or placed in the offering plate. We want to get all of the subscriptions in as soon as possible so that there will be no lapse in current subscriptions.

# Worship

**SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

**Sunday, Feb. 3 –**
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

**Sunday, Feb. 10**
**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**
Isaiah 6:1-13
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

**Sunday, Feb. 17**
**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

**Sunday, Feb. 24**
**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**
Genesis 43:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

**Looking ahead!**

Ash Wednesday, 2019, is March 6. Worship will be held at 12:15 and 7:00 PM.

**2019 FLOWER CALENDAR**

The 2019 flower calendar is posted. Cost: $25.00/vase. This is an opportunity for you to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. The church orders the flowers (unless you indicate otherwise) and you can take the flowers home after 2nd service.

**Nursery News**

Last month I wrote that we needed to have nursery in place for both services because you never know when a new family may join us. And it happened, we had a couple with a young daughter join us for early services and we were there so she could spend some time playing while her parents stayed in worship. We have a great group of women that fill the need to be in the nursery with our paid child care provider but we are always looking for more to spread out the time between duty days. This is especially true for the 8:30 am service. This could be someone who regularly attends early service or you could serve early nursery and attend late service. Please let Marilyn Lucy know of your willingness.

**PRAYER GROUP**

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

# Learning

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

**EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

This group enjoys Bible study, conversation, and sharing a meal together. We typically meet on the third Sunday of each month, rotating among the homes of those participating. Please call the Kynasts (269-921-3816 for Mary, 269-921-2786 for Bob) if you'd like more information.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study**

A new Thursday morning study begins January 31. It is a six-week study on the psalms. Cost of the book is $8.00. We love adding folks to our study time. The time is 9:30-11:00 am. A description is below.

**Song of the Faithful: Studies in Psalms**

The book of Psalms contains one hundred-fifty prayers, songs, liturgies, and poems that are divided into five smaller books. The Psalms displays the highs and lows of the life of faith. This study takes 6 big questions based in the text and challenges participants to explore this complex book thoughtfully together:

- Two roads diverged in a yellow wood - Which one will I take?
  Psalm 1
- I have sunk so low - Is there help for me?
  Psalm 51:1-10
- You have lifted me up - and I'm thankful
  Psalm 113
- What does it mean to place all your trust in the Lord?
  Psalm 146
- Listen to your elders
  Psalm 37:1-9
- Look at all the wondrous deeds God has done!
  Psalm 111

**Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study**

Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study will continue our studies of the book of Deuteronomy.

The Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship (something to eat and something to drink). We know everyone is busy so Bible study is a "come as you can" group. All men are invited to join in.

For more information call or text Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or bobkynast@gmail.com or Sid at 312-209-1301 or sidmohn@gmail.com.
"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

**Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast**

On Saturday, February 2nd, 2019, Saron Men's Monthly Devotion and Breakfast group will meet at the Galley Grill on Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville at 9:00 am. The Galley Grill is on the Super 8 Motel property at 4296 Red Arrow Highway just north of the Tyler Honda car dealership. We welcome new participants!

**1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Mark February 10th on your calendar, even though it's the second Sunday of February, and come join us for an interesting evening. We will meet at 6:30 in the upstairs lounge to share thoughts about "40 Autumns", by Nina Willner. This is a family's story of courage and survival on both sides of the Berlin Wall. Nina Willner is a former American military intelligence officer and this is her family's true story. She writes about the lives of five women separated by the iron curtain for more than forty years and their miraculous reunion after the fall of the Berlin Wall. She gives us a very poignant, fascinating history lesson.

On March 3rd, we'll shift gears to a lighter read. "Then She Found Me", is an oldie but goodie authored by the insightful and humorous Elinor Lipman. Lipman explores issues of adoption, family and mature romance. April Epner is a thirty something high school Latin teacher whose life is changed in unexpected ways when her famous, gregarious (think Joan Rivers/ Bette Midler/Judge Judy) biological mother "finds her". Don't miss the discussion about this funny yet very touching novel. *Questions? Call Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com*

*"A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say". (Italo Calvino)*

# Women of the ELCA.

**Deborah Circle**

Deborah Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at church in the lounge. Darlene Kiessel will be the study leader.

**SARON CHURCH WOMEN RUMMAGE SALE NEWS**

Normally, this upcoming summer would be the time for the Saron Church Women Rummage Sale. Due to various reasons, the Rummage Sale will **NOT** take place. All of the congregational support for this project throughout the years has been very much appreciated. Thank you.

# Support

**A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving**

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

**STOCK DONATIONS**

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement. Thanks!

Matt Bradley, treasurer

**Are you a Thrivent member?**

If so, you have an opportunity to help with the funding of a work project, as coordinated through our Outreach or Facilities teams. Please let Janet Oleson or Pastor know if you are a member, have interest or questions.

# Hospitality

**Sign Up for Refreshments**

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

# Outreach

**ELCA GOOD GIFTS**

Thank you to all who purchased an ELCA GOOD GIFT ornament. You have made a difference in someone's life.

Purchased were school supplies for 2 children; 2 Bibles for the global church; 12 chicks; 4 pigs; 9 honeybees; 2 water filters; 6 goats, food for 1 refugee family; and school fees for one girl for a total of $899.00.

*God's Work. Our Hands.*

Thank you, Outreach

**BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN**

The Soup Kitchen is open 7 days a week, every day of the year. Hunger in our community is a ongoing concern. Thank you for supporting Saron in this outreach opportunity as a part of the ELCA's misson of God's Gifts, Our Hands!

Large cans of fruit are always needed at the Soup Kitchen & can be dropped off anytime at the church. Any questions or to volunteer or provide cookies please contact Kathie Bradley at 269-427-7083.

**BLOOD DRIVE**

Our first blood drive for the year is scheduled for Monday, April 29. To be eligible to donate at our drive, don't donate anywhere else after March 3. Our next drive is 56 days later on June 24 so that keeps your donor card busy with us for the first half of the year. According to the Blood Facts sheets I receive, only about 37 out of 100 Americans are eligible to donate blood. All those people who need blood are counting on us. It may be a little hassle on our part but the potential good it can do, all the way up to saving a life, is so worth it. Please consider donating at our drive; we provide guilt-free treats!

**INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE**

A task force at Saron has been looking at issues of inclusivity and how to best live into our mission of "joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!" Serving on the task force are Kati and Nick Hooper, Laurel Gacek, Laura Hicks, Sid Mohn, and Pastor. Contact any of these folks if you would like to know more.

Interfaith Action
SW Michigan Peace & Justice Collaborative

Check out the new website!
https://swmichinterfaith.org/

***Interfaith Action Launches Educational Series on Immigration***

Beginning February 7th, Interfaith Action will being a four month educational series entitled IMMIGRATION: THE FACTS, FACES, FEELINGS, FEARS AND FAITH.

The February 7th launch will begin at 6:30 p.m. at The Rose Center, 301 Wayne Street, St. Joseph. It will feature 2 panels: one panel of experts on immigration will focus on the basic facts of immigration. Panelists include: Erin Corcoran, Executive Director of the Kroch Institute for Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, Melissa Stek of the Office of Social Justice of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, Grand Rapids, and Daniel Inquilla, a private immigration attorney from Kalamazoo.

The second panel will include 5 immigrants who arrived in the US through different routes and will tell their stories - the faces of immigration.

The March 7th event will focus on an immigration simulation so that participants can explore their feelings about immigration pathways.

The April 4th event will look at the key fears about immigration - and the perspectives our faith traditions have about immigrants.

The concluding event on May 2nd will be an Interfaith Prayer Service.

Mark your calendars for this exciting series, an opportunity to explore the immigration debate which is currently captivating the county.

**COMPANION SYNOD NEWS**

If you would like to learn more about our companion synod – the Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras – and the situation there, please find information posted on the kiosk.

**THIS MONTH'S MISSION MOMENTS**

***Each month we will be featuring a ministry of Saron – either a direct ministry, or one that is ours as a member of the ELCA.***

***This month's ministries are both supported by Project Fortify and Fly through monetary gifts and when possible, opportunities of service.***

***Lutheran Disaster Response (Adapted from their website)***

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

Examples – Tsunami Response in Indonesia; Hurricane Response and; US Wildfires. Volunteer opportunities are available.

For more information, see their website at https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response

View their blog at http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/?_ga=2.38469803.924394375.1548712428-695631019.1446491193&_gac=1.213659296.1548780360.EAIaIQobChMI6tyeqbiT4AIVBbXACh0JIAN2EAAYASAAEgK5afD_BwE

***The Readiness Center (Adapted from their website)***

In 1980 Sister Paulita Walters opened the doors to the Readiness Center with a $2,000 grant. Her vision is to provide a safe and nurturing environment where pre-school children could learn the tools necessary to help them succeed in school. Structured parent/child time leads to the parent taking an active role in their child's learning through their school years. The center has never strayed from its core purpose of providing early childhood education and family nurturing.

For over thirty years, the Readiness Center has served the Benton Harbor community and increased its programming to fulfill the changing needs of the children and their parents. The Readiness Center has grown to include an after-school component for first through fifth graders called CityKids and the 50/50 Teen work/mentor program. The longevity of the programs and the success of the students is a tribute to the effectiveness of the Readiness Center and the role of their parents.

Over 1,200 children's lives have been touched since the center opened its doors in 1980.
The center is located on Catalpa in Benton Harbor. Watch for opportunities to volunteer.

Learn more at their website.
**http://www.readinesscenterinc.org/**

**FACEBOOK & WORSHIP VIDEO**

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. Portions of our worship are being recorded for the purpose of sharing with those who are not able to attend worship, particularly those who are home bound. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear on a video, please contact Aaron Becker (at the camera) or Pastor.

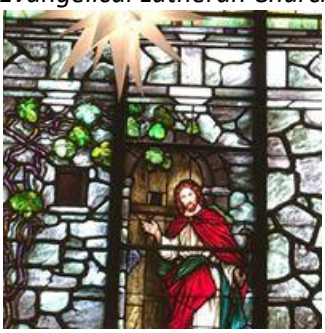
# *Council News*

***Congratulations to our newly elected council members – Deanna Deaton and Joe Ulrey, as well as Brandon and Troy Burrows who will share a youth position.*** At our February meeting assignments for all council members will be decided.

*SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH*
*510 MAIN STREET*
*ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085*

*Website: www.saronlutheran.org*
*Email:info@saronlutheran.org*

*A Congregation of:*
*The North/West Lower Michigan Synod*
*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



*February 2019*

*We're on Facebook! Like us at*
*www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph*

*We are looking to expand our hospitality team.*
*Guidance offered before you begin!*

*I'd like to help with **Mid-Week meals (Advent/Lent)**: Help _____*
*I'd like to help with **Mid-Week Beach Worship (summer – Lions Park)**: Help _____*
*I'd like to help with **coordinating coffee hour snacks (Sundays)**: Help _____*
*I'd like to help with **special dinners:***
*Tiscornia Beach Worship/Potluck (Labor Day weekend) - Help _____*
*Annual meeting (January) - Help _____*
*Easter Breakfast - Help _____*
*I'd like to help with **Blossomtime Parade Picnic (1st Sat in May):** Help _____*
*I'd like to help with special **cakes (baptisms, etc ) - order/pick up/serve:** Help _____*

*Name: _____ Phone:_____*

*Email _____*

# Saron 2019
# February Volunteer Schedule

| | ***February 3*** ***Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*** | | ***February 10*** ***Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*** | | ***February 17*** ***Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*** | | ***February 24*** ***Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **8:30** | **11:00** | **8:30** | **11:00** | **8:30** | **11:00** | **8:30** | **11:00** |
| **Assisting Minister** | Wendy King | Dennis Lundgren | Sue Rood | Bill Oleson | Pauline Ngonyani | **Denise Cook** | Marilyn Frey | Scott Kohs |
| **Reader/ Comm.Asst** | Karen Hinckley | Frieda Williams | Jim Manore | Judi Huff | Sally Schmuhl | Dan Fortenbacher | Steve Bell | Karen Johnson |
| **Ushers** | Keith Stevens & Steve Bell | John Olson & Krin Jurgensen | Fran Richards & Elizabeth Kunkel | Dave & Kathie Bradley | Dave & Sue Bailey | Jerry and Ruth Stelling | Eric and Deb Standen | Scott and Lindsay Gaspari |
| **Acolyte** | Brooke Henderson | Molly Becker | | Meredith Gacek | Troy & Eric Burrow | Mia & Alaina Bradley | Brandon & Eric Burrow | Grant Gacek |
| **Nursery 1st** | Jenna Henderson | Karen Hinckley | Marilyn Frey | Kate Kohs | Allison Rood | Molly Becker | Mary Alice Brunner | Laura Stark |
| **Nursery 2nd** | Emily Gaul | Emily Gaul | Emily Gaul | Emily Gaul | Emily Gaul | Emily Gaul | Emily Gaul | Emily Gaul |
| **Bldg. close** | | Jerry and Ruth Stelling | | Dave & Kathie Bradley | | Dave & Kathie Bradley | | Bob Hopkins |
| **Snacks** | | Goodies from annual mtg | | Kate Kohs | | | | |
| **Flowers** | In honor of Paul Olson's birthday by Susan Rood | | | | | | | |

# February 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion<br>9:40 a.m. SCS Classes | | | | | **1** | 2<br>9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast Galley Grill, Stevensville |
| 3<br>*Worship/Learning Schedule Above*<br>Installation of Council Members | **4**<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group | **5**<br>6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study | **6**<br>9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers | **7**<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Study<br>6:00 p.m. Bells<br>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | **8** | 9<br>9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting |
| 10<br>*Worship/Learning Schedule Above*<br>6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Discussion Group | **11**<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group<br>Newsletter Articles due<br>6:00 p.m. Support | **12**<br>6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study | **13**<br>9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers<br>7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle meeting at church in the lounge. | **14**<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Study<br>6:00 p.m. Bells<br>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | **15** | 16 |
| 17<br>*Worship/Learning Schedule Above* | **18**<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group<br><br>*President's Day* | **19**<br>4:00 p.m. Vasa<br>6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study | **20**<br>9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers | **21**<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Study<br>6:00 p.m. Bells<br>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | **22** | 23 |
| 24<br>*Worship/Learning Schedule Above*<br>Baptism – Finn Gray-Roll | **25**<br>11:00 a.m. Prayer Group | **26**<br>6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study | **27**<br>9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers | **28**<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Study<br>6:00 p.m. Bells<br>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | | |